



Benefits and Entitlements Service Team (BEST)

What's New

4 April 2005

Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) Open Season 15 April – 30 June 2005. During this open season, CSRS employees may contribute up to 10% of their basic pay each pay period, and FERS employees may contribute up to 15% of basic pay (up to the \$14,000 IRS limit for 2005). Air Force-serviced civilian employees will submit elections to enroll or change their contribution amount via the [EBIS Web application](#) or the [BEST automated phone system](#). Elections Submitted 15 Apr – 11 Jun 05 will be effective 12 Jun 05; those submitted 12 – 25 Jun 05 will be effective 26 Jun 05; and those submitted 26 – 30 Jun 05 will be effective 10 Jul 05. Once your open season election has become effective, you may not submit any other open season elections.

Flexible Spending Account (FSA) "Use or Lose" Deadline Coming Up. If you participated in the FSA program in 2004, you have only until 30 Apr 05 to submit qualified health care or dependent care expenses incurred during 2004 for reimbursement. After 30 Apr 05, any funds remaining in your Health Care and/or Dependent Care FSA will be forfeited. Remember, over-the-counter medicines are also eligible for reimbursement. For additional information, visit the FSAFEDS website at <https://www.fsafeds.com/fsafeds/index.asp>.

Thrift Savings Plan Rates of Return for March 2005. The following chart represents the change in respective share prices for all the funds for Mar 05. The changes in share prices reflect net earnings after accrued TSP administrative expenses, trading costs and accrued investment managements fees have been deducted. Percentages in () are negative returns. The G, F, C, S, and I Fund returns for the last 12 months assume unchanging balances (time-weighting) from month to month, and assume that earnings are compounded on a monthly basis. For more information, including share costs, go to the TSP Homepage at www.tsp.gov and click on "Returns, Share Prices, & Fund Sheets."

	G Fund	F Fund	C Fund	S Fund	I Fund
March 2005	0.37%	(0.48%)	(1.71%)	(1.86%)	(2.52%)
<u>Last 12 Months</u> (4/1/2004 - 3/31/2005)	4.45%	1.17%	6.76%	7.95%	14.96%